

THE FACE OF

# TERRORISM

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*“The Caribbean, should not linger in the false notion that small countries are immune from the conflicts that engulf larger and more powerful states.” - Sir Ronald Sanders, Antigua Ambassador to U.S.*

## Caribbean Terror Timeline

- 2007**
  - **June** - Three of four men who plotted to blow up aviation fuel tanks and pipelines at JFK Airport, NY are detained in Trinidad and extradited in June 2008. One member of the group was an Imam in Guyana, former member of the Guyanese Parliament and mayor of Linden, Guyana. One has links to Islamic extremists in South America and the other was a Trinidadian citizen.
- 2008**
  - The BVI Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Code of Practice, 2008 and the Anti-Money Laundering Regulations are published establishing a revised and updated Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism regime.
- 2009**
  - The BVI Proliferation Financing (Prohibition) Act, 2009 is enacted conferring power on the BVI Financial Investigation Agency (FIA) to take action against persons and activities that may be related to terrorist financing, money laundering or the development of weapons of mass destruction (proliferation financing).
- 2011**
  - A naturalized U.S. citizen from the Dominican Republic was arrested on charges of planning to use pipe bombs to attack targets throughout New York City.
- 2012**
  - United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime also known as the Palermo Convention and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism were extended to the BVI.
- 2014**
  - **October** - Government of Trinidad & Tobago confirmed that an Illinois-based Trinidadian born teenager had been held by US authorities as he allegedly sought to join the self-described Islamic State (ISIS).
- 2015**
  - **May** - “The Moroccanwolf – Islamic State” hacks the domain name of the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
  - **May** - “Fallaga Team” hacks into the Bahamas’ Ministry of Tourism website.
  - **June** - Government of Jamaica’s Information Service website was purportedly hacked by ISIS.
  - **November** - 3 arrested in St. Maarten possibly of Syrian origin travelling from Haiti on false Greek passports.  
  
Isis releases video featuring 4 Trinidadian-born fighters urging Trinidad and Tobago Muslims to take up arms to fight in Syria. At the end of November, approximately 80-130 Trinidadians and their families were reported to have travelled to Syria to fight and live in the so called Islamic State.
- 2016**
  - **January** - Guyana passes legislation on terrorism that creates a provision for the death penalty for certain offences. The legislation also allows suspects to be sent to other countries which have less rigorous regulations for the humane treatment of prisoners.
  - **April** - The BVI received warning that a purported ISIS Fanatic threatened to blow up the T.B. Lettsome International Airport on Beef Island.

## But What is Terrorism?

*“It is no longer the case where 20 years ago what we saw as a terrorist...was just someone with explosives around his waist and you pull a pin. The concept of terrorism has now moved to different elements, it is just not the actual terrorist, but it also involves persons who may become sleeper cells...then there will be others who will be sympathisers to terrorist activity, then there will be others who will be training persons to be involved in terrorist activity.”*

- Jamaican Observer

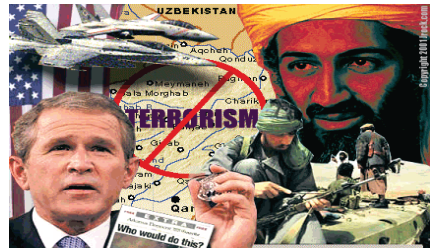
**Terrorism is the use of force or threat of action which:**

- is designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public
- is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause
- involves serious violence against a person or serious damage to property and endangers life
- creates serious risk to the health or safety of the public

## Who is a Terrorist?

**Any natural person who:**

- Commits, or attempts to commit, terrorist acts by any means, directly or indirectly;
- Participates as an accomplice in terrorist acts;
- Organises or directs others to commit terrorist acts; or
- Contributes to the commission of terrorist acts intentionally.



## What is a Terrorist Organisation:

*ISIS is not the only Terrorist Organisation*

**The term terrorist organisation refers to any group of terrorists that:**

- Commits, or attempts to commit, terrorist acts by any means, directly or indirectly;
- Participates as an accomplice in terrorist acts;
- Organises or directs others to commit terrorist acts; or
- Contributes to the commission of terrorist acts intentionally.

# Known Terrorist Organisations

Organisations Name (Principal areas of operations)	Mission
<p>AQ - Al Qaeda (Transnational) AQIM- Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (North Africa)</p>	<p>The principal aims of Al-Qaeda are to drive Americans and American influence out of all Muslim nations, especially Saudi Arabia; destroy Israel; and topple pro-Western dictatorships around the Middle East.</p>
<p>LTTE - Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Tigers) (Sri Lanka/ Transnational)</p>	<p>Since the 1980s, the LTTE have been agitating for a homeland for ethnic Tamils, who feel persecuted by Sri Lanka's ethnic majority, the Sinhalese.</p>
<p>ISIS/ISIL - Islamic State of Iraq and Syria/Levant (Iraq and Syria)</p>	<p>Religious cleansing; to establish a caliphate governed by an extremist interpretation of Islamic law.</p>
<p>Hamas- Harakat al-Muqāwamah al-Islāmiyyah Islamic Resistance Movement (The Palestinian territories/ transnational)</p>	<p>Hamas aims to create an Islamic state in all of Palestine. The immediate means to achieve this goal is the escalation of the armed struggle, and ultimately jihad, with the participation not only of Palestinian Muslims but of the entire Islamic world.</p>
<p>IK- The Caucasus Emirate (Russia)</p>	<p>Its intention is to expel the Russian presence from the North Caucasus and to establish an independent Islamic emirate in the region.</p>
<p>* FARC- Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Columbia (Colombia)</p>	<p>Primary goal is territorial control within Colombia. The majority of its funding comes from the cocaine trade, but the FARC also pursues kidnapping, extortion, and hijacking. In addition to these operations, the FARC also attacks Colombian political and military installations.</p>
<p>Boko Haram- Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (Nigeria / Cameroon / Niger / Chad)</p>	<p>The group's goal is to establish a fully Islamic state in Nigeria. The name means "people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and jihad." Residents refer to it as Boko Haram. The name "Boko" means "fake", but is used to signify Western education, while "Haram" means "forbidden", so Boko Haram colloquially translates into "Western education is sin."</p>



\* "The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a ceasefire, on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, which includes the armed group laying down their arms after more than 50 years of conflict."

# Terrorist Financing

Like all organisations, terrorists need money to operate. Terrorist financing is the providing of funds for terrorist activities. Money is needed to promote combative ideas, pay operatives and their families, arrange for travel, train new members, forge documents, pay bribes, acquire weapons, and stage attacks.

The primary goal of individuals or entities involved in the financing of terrorism is not necessarily to conceal the sources of the money but to conceal both the funding activity and the nature of the funded activity.

Terrorist financing offences include: fund raising; conducting funding arrangements; use and possession of property and laundering of funds intended to further terrorist agendas.

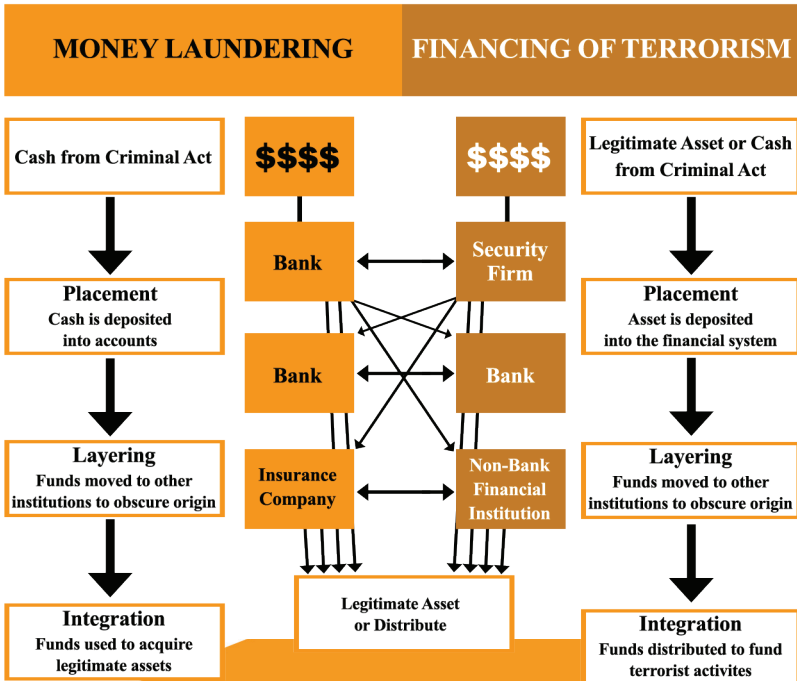
## The Link between Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

The techniques used to launder money are essentially the same as those used to conceal the sources of, and uses for, terrorist financing. Funds used to support terrorism originate from legitimate sources like:

- Personal donations
- Profits from businesses
- Charitable organisations

Funds also originate from criminal sources like:

- The drug trade
- Smuggling of weapons and other goods
- Fraud
- Kidnapping
- Extortion



# How Terrorists Move Money

*Terrorists move money through a wide range of methods. These include cash couriers, informal transfer systems (e.g. hawala), money service businesses, formal banking systems, false trade invoicing, and high value commodities.*



**Cash Couriers:** When criminals move cash across international borders, they typically conceal it in vehicles, packages, luggage, or anything else that can hold large volumes of physical cash.

**Informal Transfer systems (e.g. Hawala):** Hawala means “trust”, it works by transferring money without actually moving it. It can be described as an informal remittance system where a promissory note is given to support the receipt of money in a designated place or country where the transfer has to be made. Formal identification is usually not required, and patrons can use the system anonymously.

In the case of the Times Square bomber, handlers in Pakistan arranged for US \$4,900 to be sent via an unregistered hawala network operated by two brothers. The Times Square bomber met the brothers just outside of their Massachusetts apartment to receive the cash. There was no suggestion that the brothers knew what the money would be used for. They were merely completing an anonymous business transaction.

**Money Service Businesses (MSB):** In February 2013, a worker at the Shidaal Express, a registered MSB in Somalia sent funds directly to one of Al-Shabaab’s leaders. The goal was to transfer funds through registered MSBs, with the expectation of the transfer of the funds getting lost in the traffic of numerous legitimate remittances.

**Formal Banking System:** Al-Qaeda utilised formal bank branches in the UAE and Pakistan, which at the time lacked much regulatory oversight. They used unknown low-level operatives to move funds through the banking system for the 9/11 attacks.

**False Trade Invoicing:** False trade invoicing disguises the value of goods imported or exported from one jurisdiction to another. This can be done through false-invoicing, over-invoicing and under-invoicing.

**High-value commodities:** Valuable commodities like gold and diamonds can be used to transmit value across borders. Gold can also be smelted into any shape and disguised for easy transport. Its weight, quality and price can be easily determined, and it is nearly impossible to trace its origin. The transport of gold by travelers is also not likely to raise eyebrows.





## For Terrorist Financing Offences the prosecutor could charge someone for:



- Involvement in fund raising to fund or on suspicion of funding Terrorist activities;
- Use and possession of money or other property for the purposes of Terrorism;
- Involvement in funding arrangements for Terrorist activities;
- Laundering terrorist property;
- Failure to disclose information on suspected terrorist activities.

### *Penalties for Terrorist Financing Activities*

- On summary conviction, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum which is unlimited, or both;
- On conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years, to a fine or both.
- Forfeiture of monies in the convicted person's possession which were intended or suspected might be used for the purposes of terrorism.
- Imposition of sanctions, which includes being placed on a designated persons list or sanctions list which essentially bars financial institutions from conducting business with an individual.

*For Additional Reading on Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the BVI National Risk Assessment visit:*

<http://www.bvinra.org>